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SPECIAL ISSUE

The New AD100
TODAY’S GREATEST TALENTS IN ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
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SPECIAL SECTION

The New AD100

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THE TOP TALENTS IN ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

From classical standard-bearers to visionary trailblazers, the dynamic men and women of the new AD100 represent the best in design today—the names to know in 2012.

Text by Taylor Antrim, Samuel Cochran, Peter Haldeman, Sarah Medford, Mitchell Owens, and Mayer Rus

Adjaye Associates
Aero Studios
Alan Wanzenberg Architect
Alberto Pinto
Alexander Gorlin Architects
Allan Greenberg Architect
Appleton & Associates Inc. Architects
Atelier AM
Axel Vervoordt
Backen, Gillam & Kroeger Architects
Bilhuber and Associates
Bunny Williams Inc.
Campion Platt
Carrier and Company
Cooper, Robertson & Partners
Cullman & Kravis Inc.
Daniel Romualdez Architects
Darryl Carter Inc.
David Collins Studio
David Easton Inc.
David Kleinberg Design Associates
Drake Design Associates
Emily Summers Design Associates
Ferguson & Shamamian Architects
Foster + Partners
Fox-Nahem Associates
G. P. Schafer Architect
Gomez Associates Inc.
Hariri & Hariri
Ike Kligerman Barkley Architects
Ingrao Inc.
Jacobsen Architecture
Jacques Grange
Jean-Louis Deniot
Jennifer Post Design Inc.
John Barman Inc.
John Pawson Ltd.
John Stefanidis Brands Ltd.
JP Molyneux Studio Ltd.
Juan Montoya Design
Kelly Wearstler
Lake|Flato Architects
Landry Design Group Inc.
Leroy Street Studio
MAC
Madeline Stuart & Associates
Mario Buatta
Mark Cunningham Inc.
Mark Hampton LLC
Marmol Radziner
Martyn Lawrence Bullard Design
McAlpine Tankersley Architecture
Michael Maltzan Architecture
Michael S. Smith Inc.
Miles Redd
Milnaric, Henry & Zervudachi
Muriel Brandolini
NH Design
Olson Kundig Architects
Penny Drue Baird
Peter Marino Architect
Peter Pennoyer Architects
Richard Keith Langham Inc.
Richard Meier & Partners Architects
Richard Mishaan Design
Robert A.M. Stern Architects
Robert Couturier Inc.
Rockwell Group
The Roger Thomas Collection
Roman and Williams Buildings and Interiors
Rose Tarlow Collections
S. R. Gambrel Inc.
Saladino Group Inc.
Seldorf Architects
Shelton, Mindel & Associates
Shope Reno Wharton
Stephen Shadley Designs
Stephen Sills Associates
Steven Harris Architects
Steven Holl Architects
Steven Volpe Design
Studio Peregalli
Studio Sofield Inc.
Suzanne Kasler Interiors
Suzanne Rheinstein and Associates
Terry Hunziker Inc.
Thad Hayes Inc.
Thierry Despont Ltd.
Thomas Britt Inc.
Thomas Jayne Studio Inc.
Thomas Pheasant
Thomas Phifer and Partners
Timothy Corrigan Inc.
Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects
Tucker & Marks
Vicente Wolf Associates Inc.
Victoria Hagan Interiors
Waldo’s Designs
William T. Georgis Architect
The Wiseman Group

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ARCHITECTURE
BACKEN, GILLAM & KROEGER ARCHITECTS
Based in Northern California, architect Howard J. Backen has a well-earned reputation among top Napa and Sonoma vintners as the go-to guy for beautifully designed houses and wineries alike. (Other past clients include Jeffrey Katzenberg, Steve Jobs, and Nancy Meyers.) As a principal of Backen, Gillam & Kroeger Architects, a 60-person firm with offices in Sausalito and St. Helena, the architect has demonstrated an intuitive understanding of the local landscape as well as an impeccable eye for rustic building forms and the humble materials that distinguish them. A constant theme in his work is the seamless integration of indoor and outdoor spaces, achieved through free-flowing floor plans and sliding glass doors. Backen has also mastered the craft of making modernist stores for Williams-Sonoma Home and Pottery Barn. jgarch.com

INTERIOR DESIGN
BILHUBER AND ASSOCIATES
Though widely admired for rooms suffused with a fresh-faced American optimism, often compared to that of the legendary Billy Baldwin, Jeffrey Bilhuber has been going in an increasingly textured direction over the past few years. Sofas are now vehicles for crisscrossing passementerie; a contemporary artist may lavish rivulets of gold onto a moody chinoiserie wallpaper. Even the most avant-garde objects receive arresting touches of softness—a long, lean ceiling fixture is edged with a flirtatious ruffle of fabric, for example. Meanwhile, the New York City interior designer's series of lively and informative style books was recently amplified with the release of The Way Home: Reflections on American Beauty (Rizzoli, 2011). bilhuber.com

INTERIOR DESIGN
BUNNY WILLIAMS INC.
Creator of comfortable rooms leavened by a worldly attitude and atmospheric accessories, Manhattan-based Bunny Williams is a leading light in American interior design (and half of an aesthetic power couple; her husband is John Rosselli, the admired antiques dealer). Williams's taste is remarkably catholic, embracing the louche sparkle of a 1930s mirrored bed as much as the gritty authenticity of artisanal pottery. And though her position as a society arbiter elegantissimus is indisputable—she spent more than two decades working at the celebrated Parish-Hadley—Williams seems constitutionally unable to produce a stuffy space. Her high-style style also has mainstream presence, through her popular Treillage shops in New York City, engaging design and gardening books (four at last count), and the BeeLine Home collection of furniture, lighting, and accessories. bunnywilliams.com →
Southern culture: trelliswork wallpaper and the goddess Diana in a Virginia sunroom

JANUARY
In the living room of a Richmond, Virginia, home decorated by Bunny Williams, new pieces with a traditional air complement fine European antiques. The 18th-century English armchairs in the center of the room, upholstered in a Pollack fabric, were found at Florian Papp. The French Art Moderne armchairs and the 18th-century Venetian mirror are from Bermuda Gnocker Antiques, as are the 19th-century French painted consoles flanking the fireplace. The sofa in the foreground is covered in a Lee Jofa woven silk, and the curtains are made of a Brunschwig & Fils silk taffeta. For details see Sources.
A few years ago, when newlyweds Helga and Floyd D. Gottwald Jr. of Richmond, Virginia, were searching for a decorator to create a backdrop for their new life together, a friend gave them a list of five designers, including Bunny Williams. “I had never heard of her,” recalls Helga. “I looked at her website and thought, Yes, yes, yes!” The couple went to New York to interview Williams, a native Virginian who has become one of the Grande Dames of the Manhattan decorating establishment. “We were immediately hooked,” says Helga, who was impressed by Williams's warm, straightforward personality and her portfolio of antiques-filled homes.

But then the designer traveled down to Richmond to assess the Gottwalds' low-slung 1950s dwelling. “Bunny was very pleasant and polite, but I could tell she didn’t like the house at all,” she says. “A few weeks after meeting us, she called and said, ‘Helga, I’ve had an epiphany. You should knock the house down and build a new one.’” In fact, that had been Helga's secret wish all along. “I would have been petrified to ask my husband to do that so early in our marriage,” she says. (It’s the second marriage for both.) Williams’s suggestion spurred her on, and, much to the owner’s delight, her husband consented right away.

Now, four years later, the Gottwalds are just settling into an 18,000-square-foot brick residence that melds their distinct aesthetic preferences. “She likes French and Italian furniture, and he likes English and American things,” says Williams, who mixed Colonial and Continental styles so their new household would have a sense of shared history. Williams’s own history—and her passions for classical architecture, gardening, and the decorative arts—is well documented. Among her four books is the best-selling tome An Affair With a House, which chronicles how she turned
a run-down 18th-century Greek Revival residence in rural Connecticut into her captivating weekend retreat, complete with a barn for entertaining, extensive gardens, and an Adirondack-style poolhouse modeled after a Greek temple. Having worked for 22 years at the legendary firm of Parish-Hadley before striking out on her own in the late ’80s, Williams knows firsthand that certain American families—Anstors, Paleys, Whitneys—tend to demand that their homes be as sophisticated as they are comfortable. Both qualities appealed to the Gottwalds as well; accordingly, Williams collaborated closely with architect Jay Hugo of Jnoorth, a Richmond-based firm, to design a residence that would be genteel and welcoming in every detail. “Mr. Gottwald is from an old Richmond family, and he was clear that this should be a classic house, a variation on the Georgian style,” says Williams, who had the furniture arrangements planned before construction began and weighed in on every molding, doorway, and finish. “Bunny really helped raise the bar,” Hugo says. “She brought leadership to the project, and she understands how to create graciousness on a grand scale.”

Even in the home’s generously sized rooms, there is no excess. For instance, the capacious entrance hall—the crossbar of the H-shaped house, with a floating staircase at one end—has been designed with an eye to pleasing proportion. “You have to break up a large space to make it intimate, with big mirrors, big moldings, and big furniture,” Williams says. It was devised also as a gallery for Floyd’s collection of bronzes by Frederic Remington. Williams mounted the sculptures on simple white pedestals, and the Old West works stand in sharp relief against the walls, which were painted to resemble frescoes—a nod to Helga’s European heritage (she was born in Germany) and sensibility.

The foyer opens onto both the formal dining room and the living room, the latter served by an abundance of windows.
The kitchen backsplash is adorned in antique Italian tiles from Michael Topp; the range is by La Cornue. Opposite: The dining room's chandelier is a 19th-century Italian, the mirrored panels of rainbow glass are by John Rosselli & Assoc, the circa-1860 English mahogany dinging table is from Horst Popp, and the antique Italian chairs are from Guy Negre.
Above, from left: The master bath’s barrel ceiling was painted by Bob Christian Decorative Art, the custom-made borne by A. Schneller Sons is covered in a Summer Hill fabric, and the mosaic floor tile is by Studio. In the master bedroom, a vintage French mirror from the Chinese Porcelain Co. is displayed above a 19th-century chest from Newell; the chair, by BeeLine Home, Williams’s furnishings company, is covered in a Schumacher velvet. Opposite, clockwise from top: A bed by Oly, upholstered in a Larsen silk, is the centerpiece of a guest room; the bench is by Amy Howard Collection, and the drapery is from Todd Alexander Romano. Wallpaper by Nina Campbell is a lively match for a geometrically patterned rug by Patterson, Flynn & Martin in a guest room. A bath features wallpaper by Peter Fasano and a 19th-century French iron-and-marble sink from Trellich.

and doorways. “There’s very little wall space, so all the seating had to float,” says Williams. The seemingly effortless harmony among the disparate furnishings here—including 18th-century English armchairs, 19th-century French candelabra, and a 20th-century Venetian mirrored table—is the result of well-considered purchases, each a meeting of the minds. “Bunny doesn’t force you to buy anything,” Helga explains. “She guides you. She takes you to shops where you will see things you never imagined. She wants you to love the things you have.”

Williams gave the interiors old-world ambience with traditional details such as trompe l’oeil trellis wallpaper in the sunroom, a space that can accommodate small dinner parties. And the large, formal dining room features Venetian-plaster walls, silver tea paper on the ceiling, and watery handblown-glass mirrors.

Other choices are more understated. Williams insisted on modest window treatments throughout (“just silk panels on metal rods,” she says) and conceived of a barn-size great room where “you can wear jeans, put your feet up on the coffee table, and have Sunday supper with the grandchildren.” With its rustic beams and overscale steel windows, the room “feels like you are in the treetops,” the designer says. And it becomes a cozy media room at night when the projection-screen TV descends from above the fireplace.

The master suite, meanwhile, is an elegant haven with hand-painted Chinese wallpaper and a canopy bed with elaborately carved posts. “I can’t believe I get to sleep in a bed like that,” Helga says. But her favorite room is to be the vast master bath, which contains a tub built into a windowed alcove that seems almost a part of the adjacent walled garden. “We have lights in the roses and the trees—I could spend the entire evening there,” says the owner, who blesses the day she first heard the name Bunny Williams. “She gave me exactly what I’d envisioned but never could have realized by myself.”
Commanding the master bedroom is an intricately carved four-poster custom made by Christopher Hobbs after a 1790 design; the canopy comprises silks by Old World Weavers and Claremont, with trim by Scalamandre, and the headboard features embroidery by Penn & Fletcher. The wallpaper is by Gracie, the 19th-century bench is from Newel, and the wool carpet is by Beauvais.